







## THE CONSTITUTION.

Published Daily and Weekly.

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ATLANTA, GA., NOVEMBER 18, 1887.

Too Much Law.

Several of the northern states are in the midst of an agitation over the Sunday law question. Other issues have temporarily disappeared, and two great parties are ready to leap at each other's throats because they cannot agree upon a law regulating public and private conduct on Sunday.

In discussing this interesting issue the fact has come out that Sunday is observed in a more orderly manner in the south than in the case in any other part of the country, although the Sunday laws in the southern states are of a mild character, compared with the legislation elsewhere. It is also stated that no southern state which is noted for its observance of Sunday is without any law on the subject.

This suggests the thought that too much law may bring about the very evils legislation against. When laws are harsh, extreme and unreasonable, they vex the people, excite their resentment and provoke resistance and violence. Sunday laws are well enough when they do not go so far as to become oppressive. In our present state of civilization, certain lines of work have to be followed on Sunday, and any attempt to prohibit them by law will have the effect of making an indignant public run into excesses not thought of before.

Too much law is a great evil, and the tendency in this country at the present time is to give it to us in wholesale doses. Nothing worse could befall us than the adoption of such a policy. Human nature is so constituted that it cannot and will not submit to unreasonable laws. Our reformers and law-makers should recognize this great truth before it is too late.

SOME of Mr. Blaine's friends think the signs are encouraging and others think they are not. It was ever thus in the life of this great man.

Republicans in the South.

The republican organs have discovered that their party has no chance of carrying New York in the presidential election, are now pretending that a serious attempt will be made to carry Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

This is a mere pretense, for the organs know that to make a genuine republican campaign in those states would be as fatal as if the party had made no campaign. They know that their organization will be led again by Mr. Blaine, and that the bloody shirt will play even a more conspicuous part than it did in the last campaign. The republican party has nothing but the bloody shirt to go upon, and it will refuse as heretofore to make a campaign in the south, for the reason that a solid south is necessary to republican success in several northern states that have not heretofore been considered as doubtful.

Meanwhile, we invite the republican orators to come in our midst, so to speak, and to give us their celebrated arguments. They will find not only respectful audiences, but men to meet them on the stump.

If Brother Blaine could have a sunstroke

in Europe or even an ordinary fit, his fortune would be made.

Good Democratic Doctrine.

The Butler, Ga., Herald has the following paragraph, which we reproduce for the purpose of indorsing it:

"The Macon Telegraph writes: 'We know of no paper that will support a candidate for a high office. We are democratic enough to favor the repeal of what remains of the internal revenue laws because we believe them to be unconstitutional. We favor supplying the wants of the government by imposing on foreign imports, as has been the practice from the administration of Washington down to the beginning of the civil war. We believe that the amount of revenue required for the annual expenditures of the government is large enough, if judiciously laid, to furnish all the protection our home industries need. We desire these industries fostered because they furnish employment and homes for thousands upon thousands of our laboring classes.'"

This is Mr. Randall's platform, and it is the democratic platform. The issue between the free-traders and the genuine reformers could not be more pitifully stated than the Butler Herald states it. We do not believe there are one hundred democrats in Georgia who are opposed to these laws which will be to perpetuate a high tariff.

As a matter of fact, the contrary is the case.

Any person of sound mind knows that to reduce the tariff will be to increase the revenue, and that to increase the revenue, while the excise laws are piling up one hundred and twenty millions in the treasury every year will be to enormously increase the revenue. This is not surmise, but a fact.

There is but one way to reform the revenue,

and that is to repeal the excise laws. When that is done the way will be clear to a revision and a reduction of the tariff.

THE Boston Globe is prepared to admit

that Boston is the home of culture. This is a sadder fact than would at first seem to appear, if we may be permitted to use the Boston idiom.

Free Speech.

The fiery talk of Herr Most in New York, the other day, has set the newspapers to discussing the matter of free speech.

The federal constitution says: "Congress

shall pass no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Every state constitution has a provision

added to this effect: "That any citizen may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right."

Under the law such men as Most have

had their say, however, they can be prosecuted if their utterances were libelous, defamatory, treasonable or in other way criminal. Our laws permit a citizen to go pretty far, but no harm would result from any outburst of speech if the authorities would do their

duty. The trouble is that Most is allowed to make a harangue, and then the newspapers publish it and wrangle over it for months, thus encouraging the wretch to repeat his performance. A prompt arrest, a speedy trial and a term in prison would stop these howling orators, and it may be put down as a settled fact that nothing else ever will.

It is now time for New York to consider

the propriety of hanging Johann Most.

An Ohio Correspondent.

A correspondent at Plainville, Ohio, says that he has been a reader of THE CONSTITUTION for a year past, and that he has eagerly watched during that time for a sentiment from its editors disclaiming the doctrine of state's rights. We take pleasure in saying to our correspondent that he will have to wait a good many years before finding such a sentiment in these columns.

The letter of our correspondent shows the

vast amount of ignorance that exists in Ohio on the simplest subjects.

There are many thousands of voters in Ohio who not

only do not understand the results of the war, but who know nothing of the system of government under which they live.

Our ignorant correspondent thinks that the

doctrine of state's rights contemplates the right of secession, whereas the war has settled that matter forever. It is to be feared that no amount of argument could beat into our correspondent's Ohio head the difference between state sovereignty and state rights.

But there is this much to be said, which

may give our Ohio friend a glimpse of the true inwardness of the situation: If Ohio went into the war for the union for the purpose of destroying the rights of the states and succeeded, then there are no state rights. If Ohio has any rights in the union, then Georgia has rights. If Georgia has none, then Ohio has none, and so it goes. There is not much room for controversy here.

The Chicago News is ahead of all other

papers so far as high-water mark circulation is concerned.

Moving On Herat.

The Russians played a sharp game to secure the possession of Merv about four years ago, and their success has encouraged them to reach out in the direction of Herat.

It will be recalled that the Russians

made no forcible demonstration against Merv. They first sent traders there, and made friends and acquaintances among the most influential people of the province. Then they established bazars in Merv. In 1884 a strong force of Russians appeared on the outskirts of the province, and the people were induced to ask the protection of Russia.

Herat is of still more importance than

Merv. It is the key to India, and when the Russians secure it, the British empire in the east will be jeoparded. Several months ago about three hundred Russian merchants entered Herat, and it is believed that their object is to open the way for the army. This is so much like the advance on Herat that there can be little doubt of its meaning.

It is not likely that England and Russia

will fight any decisive battles in the Afghan desert. The final struggle for supremacy must come after the fall of Herat, and all the signs of the times indicate that this cannot be very long delayed. From first to last, the Russian movements in the east have been a succession of surprises, and the British have been out-generalled at every point. The plot thickens, and further developments will be awaited with eager interest.

BILL NYE has been lecturing in Boston.

The people of that city take him seriously.

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MAJOR A. M. FOWLER, the chairman

of the committee in Selma for getting up stock, etc., for the Atlanta and Selma railroad, after discussing other matters needing attention, said: "Our people are fully alive to the rights of the line, and are ready to move forward to its accomplishment."

From the New York Sun.

The columns of our esteemed contemporary, the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, present from day to day at present a spectacle which we dare say is unparalleled in the history of American journalism.

An election will be held in Atlanta one week

from next Friday to decide, under the local option law, whether that city shall be for the next two years a dry town, and the dry is already very hot.

A great many eminent citizens have plunged into

the contest, and among them are Colonel Evan P. Howell and Mr. Henry W. Grady, both of THE CONSTITUTION.

The singular thing about the situation is

that these two distinguished journalists and partners in business have opposed sides in the controversy, and that each has been trying to drag the newspaper after him. How is the conflict in the town at large, the general temper of Atlanta must be judged compared with that now prevailing in the history of American journalism.

Colonel Howell is against prohibition. He

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in which he clothes his profound conviction that prohibition should have two years' more trial in Atlanta. Just listen to the glowing peroration of young Grady's speech, and you will be convinced that it is believed as an advertisement in the columns of the newspaper with which Mr. Grady's name is indissolubly connected.

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deplorable, and which would be so incompatible with the southern character, that we may confidently expect it will never occur here. Let us hope that it may be confined to New England, women following it.

A Card From A. E. Buck.

ATLANTA, Ga., November 17, 1887.—To the Editor of THE CONSTITUTION: Permit me to correct the statement in this morning's CONSTITUTION that I was present at the platform in the opera house last night. I was not present. I was in bed, and was asked to be immediately put back in bed. He appeared to partly awaken. His family were called, and within fifteen minutes he was dead.

He Wanted a Mixture.

From the Quincy Herald.

At eight o'clock Wednesday evening a stranger called at the drug store of Durant & Oehlman on Hampshire street. The junior member of the firm was alone. The stranger, a heavy set, middle-aged, dark-complexioned man with a black beard, asked for a bottle of nitric acid and carbolic acid compounded in equal quantities.

Mr. Oehlman is not a practical chemist, but

suspected something wrong by the man's manner. He refused to give him the acid, but he was told that if he had the acid could not be sold.

The stranger replied in the negative. "But," he

continued, with a show of hesitation, "I've often got that stuff mixed before."

"Well," said the reply, "you'd better go to the

same place again."

The stranger hurriedly left the store and has

not been seen since.

John C. Oehlman tried an experiment in

the back yard. He mixed a very small quantity of the acid. The instant the two combined there was an explosion, and the bottle was thrown violently across the street.

"How," he said, "I queried a small boy, who

had watched the proceeding and thought a new torpedo had been invented. 'Let me see the next one off, mister!'"

The "mister" didn't reply. He returned to

the store, and, seating himself, began wondering why anybody should desire to blow him up.

[Communicated.]

Prohibition Oratory.

The people of Atlanta are not more prosperous, happy nor contented now than they were two years ago—then "THE BIBLE IS A LIE, AND GOD IS A MYTH."—Rev. Dr. Hawthorne, prohibition orator.

From the New York World.

To the Editor of the World: The New York election, made of course, the nomination of Grover Cleveland by the next election, is a very serious matter. It is a matter of national importance, and it is to be run by the machine as a common, old-fashioned politician. The Massachusetts and Maryland elections give emphasis to this view. The Cleveland machine is a very serious matter.

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